

ATWOOD COMING DESPITE WRECK, HE TELEGRAPHS

Aviator Notifies Captain
Oyster He Will Start at
Four Today.

HIS MACHINE IN SERIOUS SMASH-UP

Air Pilot and Hamilton Fall Sev-
enty Feet—Announces They
Have Made Repairs.

Harry N. Atwood and Charles K. Hamilton, undeterred by another accident this morning, will make another attempt to fly to Washington this afternoon, starting at 4 o'clock.

Neither a fall of seventy-five feet this morning nor the wreck of the new biplane will deter their attempting the completion of the last leg of the Boston-Washington flight, according to a message which they sent this afternoon to Capt. James Oyster, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Although for a time Atwood and Hamilton gave up the idea of flying because the aeroplane which was sent here yesterday seemed utterly unavailable, it suddenly occurred to Atwood that the parts of the machine which was wrecked in the surf Friday could be utilized and the two aviators were at once hard at work again making the necessary repairs.

Message to Oyster.

Then Atwood sent a messenger to the telegraph office with the following message to Captain Oyster: "James F. Oyster, Washington, D. C.: After a talk with Hunt, determined to fly to Washington. Have repaired machine. We leave at 4 o'clock for Washington, D. C. HARRY N. ATWOOD.

Whether successful or not, the persistence of the two men is being commended. This morning they fell seventy-five feet to the ground. A few minutes later they were engaged in making the necessary repairs to the machine.

Hunt's Message to Oyster.

In the first minutes of chagrin after the accident this morning, Atwood gave up the idea of flying, and so informed Granville Hunt, representative at Atlantic City of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hunt then wired Captain Oyster this message: "Atwood will not fly to Washington. Have just had this decision from him. He started to continue his journey by the air route this morning at 9:30, but met with an accident and his machine is wrecked. He will go to Washington by train this afternoon. He regrets greatly that he did not fly to Washington July Fourth, saying, 'If I had I would have avoided all this trouble and loss through the wrecking of two aeroplanes.'"

Atwood and Hamilton Have Smash-up in First Attempt to Fly Today

ATLANTIC CITY, July 9.—The start this morning was made at Ventnor on the aviation field of Lieut. Hugh Willoughby at 10 a. m. Atwood was apparently all in readiness for a long time if he stayed on the beach waiting for the tide to recede, so the aeroplane, after it arrived yesterday afternoon, was towed to Ventnor, arriving there about 5 p. m.

At daylight Atwood and Hamilton were on the job today. The aeroplane was apparently all in readiness for a long time if he stayed on the beach waiting for the tide to recede, so the aeroplane, after it arrived yesterday afternoon, was towed to Ventnor, arriving there about 5 p. m.

Something was wrong in the third cylinder. After several vain attempts to leave the ground the aviators carted the machine back into the hangar.

The first attempt to fly was a failure. The machine would not rise more than twenty feet from the ground. Not discouraged, the two aviators repeated themselves in the machine and again turned on the propeller.

This time fortune seemed to favor them. The aeroplane made a perfect start and shot up as they soared over the meadow. The men had gone about a quarter of a mile when the motor suddenly stopped.

The aeroplane dropped like a plummet, bouncing the two men from their seats. Hamilton was slammed the hardest. He was pitched backward, but wires caught him and prevented his falling under the machine.

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.
Probably fair tonight; Monday unsettled and continued warm; moderate south winds.

| U. S. BUREAU. | TEMPERATURES. | AFFLECK'S. |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 8 a. m. | 79 | 81 |
| 9 a. m. | 80 | 82 |
| 10 a. m. | 81 | 83 |
| 11 a. m. | 82 | 84 |
| 12 noon | 83 | 85 |
| 1 p. m. | 84 | 86 |
| 2 p. m. | 85 | 87 |

TIDE TABLE.
Today—High tide, 6:30 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. Low tide, 12:40 a. m. and 1:21 p. m.
Tomorrow—High tide, 7:12 a. m. and 7:57 p. m. Low tide, 1:33 a. m. and 2:08 p. m.

SUN TABLE.
Sun rises, 4:18 a. m.; Sun sets, 7:50 p. m.

Her Mind Blank



MRS. MARGARET LAFFEY,
Who held up grocery store last night,
and who today is unable to
recall her act.

GEORGETOWN GAS
DIRECT TO VOTE
ON SUNDAY

Board Tomorrow Will Con- sider Proposal to Cut Price.

At 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon the directors of the Georgetown Gas Light Company will vote on the proposal to reduce the price of gas in the company's territory from \$1 to 85 cents per thousand cubic feet. It is believed the reduction will be ordered and that it will be effective October 1.

The board will also take the first steps toward testing bonds of \$1,000,000, of which \$25,000 shall be issued at once, for the following purposes:

To retire outstanding certificates of indebtedness, \$25,000.
To pay floating debt, \$80,000.
To begin new gas plant, \$25,000.
The new officers of the company, elected by the board at its first meeting, immediately after the annual meeting of stockholders a month ago, will preside at tomorrow's session. They are:

President, Robert D. Weaver; secretary and general manager, Robert L. Middleton (re-elected); treasurer, Henry Flather.

The directors, all of whom are expected to be present, are Maurice J. Adler, S. Thomas Brown, William A. Leitch, William A. Means, George L. Nicholson, William B. Orme, Robert D. Weaver, and Richard H. Goldsborough.

It was originally the intention to make the reduction in the price of gas effective July 1, but the directors found it impossible to arrange for beginning the new plant and for extending the territory of the company's territory as quickly as had been anticipated, and it has practically been determined to wait until fall, by which time it is believed the volume of business will be greater and the company equipped to extend its operations.

Contracts have recently been made for a large amount of new pipe, which will be laid along the Conduit road and west of Connecticut avenue, where the demand for gas is rapidly increasing, and where there are relatively few mains.

WOMAN UNABLE TO RECALL SHE HELD UP GROCER

Mrs. Laffey Surprised When
Son Tells Her of
Her Act.

POVERTY AND OLD INJURY HURT MIND

Long, Hard Struggle Against Mis-
fortune May Have Af-
fected Her.

Memory has mercifully failed Mrs. Margaret Laffey today.

Her mind, which under the stress of financial worry, and the effects of an old injury, planned the most daring hold-up that Washington has known in some time; which steadied her hand to hold a revolver without a quaver against the head of Charles Mattfield in his store on Park road; which took all tremor from her voice when she demanded his money, today, she says, tells her nothing of what she did. From the lips of her sixteen-year-old son, "Timmie," she heard the story this morning.

Boy Tells Her of Act.

It was hard for the boy, who had come to visit her, to sit beside her in her cell, at the First precinct, and talk to her of the great shadow which had fallen over her, setting her apart from other mothers, and by her own confession, before her memory failed her, putting her outside the pale of the law.

But the boy sat there this morning and told her how she had entered the grocery store of J. D. Potts, at 452 Park road, last night. He told her how she had walked slowly into the place, and deliberately approached Mattfield, and, drawing a revolver from the folds of her dress, demanded Mattfield's cash, and how she had taken the \$106.10 and walked away, only to be captured.

Through the recital, the woman repeated over and over:

"Did I do that? Son, could I have done that?"

Her Old Injury.

And after the hardest part was over for the boy, he explained to the police that more than a year ago, his mother was lifted from beneath the wheels of a car, and the doctors shook their heads and said she could not recover. Then he told them how she had gotten well, but had been "queer" at times.

After the sickness followed loss of work, and for months the mother has had no employment.

The woman was arrested while she was making her escape from the store which had robbed. Today she was taken to Police Headquarters and her photograph added to the police gallery.

"God knows I am not guilty of deliberate robbery," she sobbed. "My mind is clouded over always, and I am not always responsible for my actions. Reason must have left me before I entered the store and pointed a pistol at a human being, demanding his money."

Here Two Years.

She said she had been in Washington about two years, having come to this city from Piedmont, W. Va., with her son, who was then but fifteen years old. A story of poverty and distress and despair was unfolded, but the police paid little heed, suspecting that her story was pure fiction and believing her guilty of a similar robbery on April 2 last, when the Sanitary grocery store, at 3105 M street, was entered in broad daylight, and the contents of the till taken. A certain similarity in the method of the thief led Captain Boardman to believe he had in custody one of the boldest woman crooks ever caught in Washington.

The woman told a straight story, as far as it went, but she tried to shield herself behind the curtain of mental unbalance. She said that some time ago she had received a blow on the head, and that since then her mind became clouded for days at a time, and she was irresponsible for her actions.

Captain Boardman put little faith in the statement. After a thorough examination she was sent back to her cell to await trial in Police Court tomorrow on a charge of highway robbery.

Woman Who Revealed Alaska Scandal



MISS M. F. ABBOTT,
Who will be star witness in House in-
vestigation of alleged Con-
troller Bay grab.

WEARY OF SNUBS
ABROAD, DUCHESS
IS TO LIVE HERE

Former Consuelo Vanderbilt to Have Mansion on Site of Quay House.

Sale of the old Quay home in K street to the Vanderbilt family means that Consuelo duchess of Marlborough is coming to this city to reside. Tired of the snubs and affronts which she has experienced in England since her separation from her husband, the duchess has made up her mind to live for a time at least in this country, and has elected to dwell among the cosmopolitan smart set of Washington rather than the neutral-toned atmosphere in New York, in which she was born and reared.

The old Quay house as it stands will not house the duchess. A new residence, handsome and modern, will be erected on the site of the old building, and a commission already has been given to a well-known New York firm of architects.

This new residence will cover the entire lot 125 by 200 feet, and if not as large as the tremendous Blenheim castle, country seat of the Marlboroughs in England, will afford plenty of room for the duchess and her servants, many as these will be.

The fact that the Quay house was bought for the duchess explains the extraordinary secrecy surrounding the sale of the property, which the Union Trust Company, of Pittsburgh, conveyed.

The duchess will have as her neighbors some of Washington's most distinguished citizens. Admiral Dewey is just across the street, and so are Secretary Knox and former Senator Hale. Senator Wetmore's residence flanks the Quay house on one side and Senator Elkins on the other. The duchess and her family have been in Washington for some years.

The duchess of Marlborough is not the first American girl to make her home in Washington after marriage to a nobleman had turned out unhappily. Many years ago Betsy Patterson, the American bride of Jerome Bonaparte, who went back to Europe and repudiated her, dwelt here for a time, and not long ago it was announced that Mrs. Alice Thaw, who divorced the Earl of Yarmouth, would come to live in this city.

Robed in White, Woman Tries to Preach in Church

PHILADELPHIA, July 9.—Claiming to have been divinely inspired and robed herself in a cloak of white and gold, with a head dress improvised from her handkerchief, Mrs. Mary Price, thirty years old, appeared in the center aisle of the fashionable Holy Trinity Church during the services today and began to preach.

The Rev. Dr. Floyd W. Tompkins, the rector, was in the midst of his sermon when the woman appeared like an apparition.

"I have been sent, and will speak. The lost sheep must be found," she cried. She broke up the service.

The woman was taken to the police station by an officer, where she declared that she was from England, and that she had only arrived in this country a few weeks ago. A police surgeon, after an examination, said that the woman was suffering from the hot weather.

ALASKAN INQUIRY RUSHED TO CHECK WHITEWASH PLAN

House Committee Subpoenas Miss M. F. Abbott, Investigator, Who Discovered "Dick to Dick" Letter.

REPORT THAT DOCUMENT IS GONE CAUSES A SENSATION

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

Miss M. F. Abbott, editor and writer on conservation topics, and student of Alaska affairs, was last night served with a subpoena to appear before the House Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department. The committee will sit tomorrow to begin an investigation of the Controller bay grab and especially to sift the remarkable story which Miss Abbott has told, involving Charles P. Taft as an aid of Richard S. Ryan in securing for Ryan the shore-line lands on Controller bay.

No such political sensation has been seen in Washington in a long time, as was produced by the publication of Miss Abbott's story, the conflicting statements and reticence of officials, and the determination of the Interior Department committee to take the matter up without an hour's unnecessary delay.

It developed today that one reason for haste on the part of the House committee, was that reports had reached some of its members, that a plan was under consideration, of having the whole question of Controller bay turned over for investigation by a "whitewash committee," selected by the Senate, and of such personnel that a verdict favorable to the Administration could be assured.

MODERATE HERE,
BUT HEAT WAVE IS
ON JOB ELSEWHERE

Weather Good for Crops, Except in Southwest. Big Cattle Loss.

Varying temperatures prevail over the United States today and Washington is again one of the cities which the Weather Bureau calls "moderately warm."

But it is not so hot here today as in many other places, notably Chicago, where the heat wave is very much back on the job. Reports from various parts of the country regarding the weather as related to the crops are generally good. In the great wheat regions of the West heavy rains have fallen and are falling again today.

The Southwest, particularly Texas, has suffered terribly from drought, and cattle losses in western Texas and the Pecos valley are estimated at \$750,000. Rains have fallen in some places the last few days, but the drought has left no vegetation for the rain to freshen. Heat, hunger, and thirst have slain cattle by the thousands.

How well off Washington has been in the matter of deaths, is seen in fresh computations of the heat victims in Chicago and Boston. For the eight days ending Saturday night 572 persons succumbed to the heat. Boston had 16 and Baltimore at least fifty. In this city there were but two deaths.

"Probably fair tonight; Monday unsettled; continued warm; moderately light winds," is the prediction this morning of the Weather Bureau.

The temperature started climbing briskly this morning. At 8 a. m. it was 81 degrees at Affleck's and 79 at the Weather Bureau.

By 11 a. m. it had climbed to 83 at Affleck's and 81 at the Government thermometer. The Government forecasters do not look to see the highest temperature of the day, but the mercury seemed ambitious this morning.

Two deaths and one case of insanity, due to the heat, occurred in Buffalo this morning.

Five Hurt in Motor Mishap in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, July 9.—George H. Price, his wife and two children, of Excelsior, and Harry Stair, of Minneapolis, were injured today when their automobile turned over near Anoka. The party was taken to Anoka and placed under the care of Dr. George K. Hagaman.

The accident occurred three miles south of Anoka, on the Osceola road, when the machine turned over while making a sharp turn. Price was pinned under the side of the car. His left arm was fractured and he was painfully bruised.

Vijbur Price, his son, was badly cut above the eye. Physic Price suffered a bruised hip, and Mrs. Price was badly shaken up.

Boy Disobeys Mother And Now Lies Dead

NEWARK, N. J., July 9.—Had he not disobeyed his mother, eleven-year-old Ignatius E. Hanlon would not be lying dead in his home today. The boy went out to play with some companions, and was warned not to go near the Morris canal, but the temptation was too great when one of his playmates converted a wooden packing case into a boat and began to propel it with a stick. The boy joined in the fun, but lost his life. His companion was saved by clinging to the upper box.

To Thwart Whitewash.
Whatever may be the facts in this regard, some of the members of the House Expenditures Committee became fearful that a whitewash was to be undertaken, and that unless they bustled themselves immediately, they might lose their opportunity to bring out the whole story in its full details.

Chairman James M. Graham acted without any hesitations when he became convinced that conditions required it. As a member of the committee of inquiry in the Ballinger-Pinchot case, he had been impressed with the possibility of doctoring files, inserting papers, burning others, and generally "fixing up" affairs when there was necessity for such a course. Mr. Graham does not want to give opportunity for any fixing, if he can avoid it.

Denials Give Incentive.

Additional incentive to haste was given, because of denials that were published yesterday morning, of the existence of the "Dick to Dick" note which Miss Abbott claimed she found in the files at the Interior Department concerning the Controller Bay case. Miss Abbott was sent for by some of the members of the Graham committee, told her story to them in the utmost detail, and convinced them that if the "Dick to Dick" letter is not now in the files, it was there when Miss Abbott examined them, and that its disappearance will demand investigation and explanation.

The only witnesses who have been summoned for Monday's sitting of the committee, it was stated today, are Miss Abbott and Fred Dennett, Commissioner of the General Land Office. It is the purpose of the committee to open its inquiry by an investigation of the Chugach forest land surveys that had to be made after the Controller bay parts were restored to entry. The committee will demand to know about the surveys, their cost, the orders under which they were made, etc., and this will lay a foundation from which the investigation will be pushed out to wider range, taking in the entire question of the disposal of the Controller bay shores.

Questions Before Committee.

There are two big questions before the committee. First, whether Richard S. Ryan represented the Guggenheim Alaska syndicate. On this point some sensational testimony will come out from authorities not heretofore brought into this matter. Ryan filed with the Interior Department a letter from a New York banking firm, which said he was not a representative of the Guggenheims; that this firm was backing him. Also, Senator Simon Guggenheim and his brother, Daniel Guggenheim, assured Secretary Fisher that Ryan was entirely independent of them.

These assurances at the time entirely satisfied the Secretary. They have not satisfied some other investigators, and the Graham committee will develop testimony from the financial district of New York, calculated to discredit these statements and establish that the real mission of Ryan was to get these lands for the Guggenheims, while pretending to be independent.

Uncertainty About Letter.

Next to this is the uncertainty about whether the Interior Department files contain the "Dick to Dick" letter that Miss Abbott will swear she found there. This letter could easily have been abstracted from the files without interfering with the continuity of the nominal record. It was evidently not intended, by its writer, to be made a part of the public record. Miss Abbott says it was fastened by a wire "clip" to a formal and unimportant letter from Ryan to Ballinger, dated July 13, 1910. The postscript, which was the really important part, was written by Ryan.

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

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